

OGC 79-10333

16 November 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel /
FROM: [REDACTED]
Deputy General Counsel
SUBJECT: Classification of NAPA Project
Group Report

STATINTL

1. By virtue of the DDCI's transmittal memorandum of 5 November, I, among others, are in receipt of the final report of the NAPA Project Group -- a team I understand to be under your direction. Pursuant to the request in that memorandum, we expect to make a number of substantive comments about the conclusions and recommendations of the Group. Those comments, however, will be the subject of a separate memorandum.

2. Through this memorandum, I want to share with you my concerns about the classification of the report. On its face it does not appear that the report has been classified pursuant to the requirements of the applicable Executive Order, E.O. 12036. First, the report is not marked on a portion-by-portion basis. Second, and most important, much of the information in the report unquestionably, at least in my view, cannot rise to the level of justifying a SECRET classification. In summary, I have the impression that this report was classified under the rather loose standards that were in force some years ago: "The report may have something in it that is SECRET, therefore, mark the entire document SECRET." As you are aware, this type of philosophy was supportive of the conclusion that much information was being grossly overclassified and this clearly was one of the strongest motivating factors which brought about the more stringent standards that we have today. The level of my concern is heightened in this case by the fact that the Executive Order which imposes these new classification requirements is now almost a year and a half old.

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